THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) Government have received representations from trade Unions/Organisations for amending the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. A proposal for enhancing the eligibility and computation ceilings under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is under the active consideration of Government.

Plight of Women workers

6810. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the women quarry workers and their babies:

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove their plight; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Survey of women labourers in small scale industries

6811. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey on employment of women labour in small scale industries, educational agencies viz. Anganwadi, day care home, police force, super bazar, hospitals etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof statewise as on 30th April, 1995:

(c) the steps taken by Government for education, training and welfare of the women labour; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce any policy on women working awareness and resources of self reliance?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government have not conducted any survey on employment of women labour in different sectors so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) have brought under implementation several programmes for providing special access to education all levels for women. Objectives of these programmes are universalisation of Elementary Education, vocationalisation of post secondary education and modernization of polytechnic and higher technical education.

The National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) Noida (UP) and the six Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVTIs) for women in different parts of India impart basic and advanced levels of vocational training to women. Special attention is also given for the modernisation and establishment Women's Training Institutes (ITIs) under the World Bank aided Vocational Training Project. A Women's Cell under the Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T) is also coordinating with the States in the matter of Vocational Training of Women.

Statutory provisions have been made in certain labour laws for organising child care centres for the benefit of women workers. The Ministry of Labour has launched a scheme to provide grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations to encourage employers to established creche facilities for women industrial workers. The objective is to ensure that employers do not minimise employment of women on considerations of cost involved in providing creches. The scheme also enablies employers/establishments who are not statutorily required to provide the creches to avail of the facilities under the scheme.

(d) A separate Cell for Women is functioning in the Ministry of Labour to pay special attention to their problems. The Cell is responsible for the formulation of policies that seek to remove the handicaps under which they work, to strengthen their bargaining position, to improve their wages and working conditions, to enhance their skills and open up better employment opportunities for them.

Protection of workers interest

6812. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Government will protect workers interests" in the Hindustan Times dated 2-5-95;

(b) If so, the details thereof: and

(c) what steps have been taken so far to raise the economic standard of workers as well as their families like Japan and what budgetary provisions have been made in the Budget of 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P A. SANGMA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is committed to protecting the interests of workers. For this purpose a number of labour laws have been enacted. Suitable amendments in these Acts are carried out as and when considered necessary to protect the interests of workers

(c) In order to raise the economic standard of workers and their families, the Central Government by notification dated 12-7-94 revised the minimum rates of wages for 39 scheduled employments relating to Mining, Construction and Railway Sectors under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The minimum wages for scheduled employments in agriculture were revised earlier on 12-8-92.

In the State sphere, minimum wages under the minimum wages Act have been fixed/revised in 1139 employments.

Besides, the workers were granted Rs. 600 crores by way to Interim Relief, Rs. 385 crores by revision of Industrial D.A., Rs. 250 crores by removing ceiling on gratuity and increasing its rate. The Textile workers benefitted by the raising of Provident Fund Contribution of management from 8.33 to 10 per cent.

A number of Plan and Non-Plan Schemes which aim at the economic betterment of workers form part of the budgetary provisions of the Ministry of Labour. However, separate figures for schemes exclusively pertaining to raising economic standards of workers are not maintained.

Rehabilitation of bonded children freed from Gajapati District in Orissa

6813. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seven bonded children from Gajapati district of Orissa who were released following the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission have been rehabilitated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa have reported that the seven Oriya children of Gajapati District released from bondage in Delhi have since been rehabilitated.

Accidents in Industrial establishments and mines

6814. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents in industrial establishments and mines during last three years, state-wise;